

REMARKS

There are 19 claims remaining in this application, with claims 6 and 8 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 7 and 11 are independent.

Applicants' attorneys note the allowance of claims 11 through 14 in the Office Action dated January 23, 2006.

It was additionally indicated that claim 6 was directed to patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim.

Pursuant to the instant Amendment, claim 6 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof incorporated into claim 1, which should now be considered to be allowable.

Claims 2 through 4 and 21 are dependent from claim 1 and are clearly allowable. Similarly, claim 5, which is dependent from claim 3, is clearly allowable.

It was additionally indicated, in the January 23, 2006 Office Action, that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Pursuant to the instant amendment, claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitation in claim 10, that the touch sensor includes a touch contact terminal projecting through an aperture in the console. Claim 7 should now be considered to be allowable.

The PUDNEY reference (2003/0216817) discloses a proximity sensor 28 within a handle 16, see, for example, FIGS. 4 - 9. The sensor 28 is carried within the handle. It does not project

through an aperture and does not respond to physical contact, i.e. touch. Indeed, it “can work through various substrates, like plastic, glass and leather” (paragraph 0032).

Applicants’ claimed touch sensor as set forth in claim 7 includes a contact terminal which projects through an aperture in the console. PUDNEY does not disclose a touch contact terminal nor does it disclose any type of touch sensor which projects through an aperture in its handle.

Claim 7 is clearly allowable, as are claims 9, 10, 15, 18 and 20, which are dependent from claim 7 as well as claims 16, 17 and 19, all of which include the limitations of claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is evident that all claims remaining in this application are clearly allowable.

WHEREFORE, reconsideration and early allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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